

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127509

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EG, IS, PINR

SUBJECT: INTSUM 329 - JUNE 2, 1977

1. ISRAEL. THE LIKUD AND THE DMC ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME COALITION NEGOTIATIONS TODAY, AFTER THE DMC LEADERSHIP AGREED YESTERDAY THAT BEGIN'S ASSURANCES OVER THE DAYAN AFFAIR WERE SUFFICIENT. THE DMC, HOWEVER, ADDED THE CAVEAT THAT IT RETAINED THE OPTION OF DROPPING OUT OF A COALITION IF THE LIKUD'S MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS WERE OBJECTIONABLE.

2. NEVERTHELESS, THE FALLOUT OVER THE DAYAN ISSUE APPEARS LIKELY TO COMPLICATE THE BARGAINING PROCESS--ALREADY DIFFICULT GIVEN LIKUD-DMC DIFFERENCES OVER BASIC DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES. AS A RESULT OF THE DAYAN CONTROVERSY, YADIN HAS MADE AN ESPECIALLY STRONG PITCH THAT THE DMC SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THE FOUR KEY  
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PORTFOLIOS. IN AN INTERVIEW YESTERDAY, HE EMPHASIZED THAT, BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES WITH THE LIKUD, THE DMC WANTED A FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR SECURITY POST AND BROADLY HINTED, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY TEL AVIV, THAT HE SHOULD BE FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. FURTHER COMPLICATING THIS PICTURE, THE LIBERAL

FACTION OF THE LIKUD DECLARED YESTERDAY THAT ONE OF ITS MEMBERS--ARYE DULZIN--WAS THE LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. DAYAN, FOR HIS PART, STATED THAT HE WOULD REJECT ALL OFFERS FROM THE LIKUD EXCEPT BEGIN'S EARLIER ONE FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN AN APPARENT MOVE BY BEGIN TO HEAD OFF THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THREE CANDIDATES FOR THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO; LIKUD IS SAID TO BE CONSIDERING OFFERING YADIN THE POST OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

4. THE MANNER IN WHICH BEGIN ORIGINALLY HANDLED THE DAYAN APPOINTMENT HAS ALSO REINFORCED DOUBTS WITHIN THE DMC ABOUT HOW BEGIN WOULD RUN THE GOVERNMENT. YADIN COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR LEWIS THAT A COALITION REQUIRES COMPROMISES, BUT BEGIN'S UNILATERAL NOMINATION OF DAYAN APPEARED TO INDICATE THAT HE THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS WITHOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS COALITION PARTNERS. BEGIN'S ACTIONS, IN OUR VIEW, COULD STRENGTHEN THE VOICES WITHIN THE DMC OF THOSE WHO ARGUE THAT DMC INFLUENCE IN A LIKUD GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MINIMAL AND THAT THE PARTY, THEREFORE, COULD BEST PURSUE ITS GOALS AS PART OF THE OPPOSITION. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. LEBANON. TENSION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS INCREASED SHARPLY IN RECENT DAYS. HEAVY ARTILLERY EXCHANGES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE SATURDAY, AND THE PALESTINIANS CLAIMED YESTERDAY THAT 1,000 ISRAELI TROOPS CROSSED THE LEBANESE BORDER AND OCCUPIED TWO LEBANESE VILLAGES ON THE SLOPES OF MT HERMON NEAR THE OCCUPIED GOLAN HEIGHTS. PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

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REPORTS INDICATE THAT BOTH VILLAGES WERE ABANDONED AFTER A SEARCH. WE CANNOT CONFIRM THESE REPORTS. CLASHES BETWEEN SAIQA AND PRO-IRAQI PALESTINIAN GROUPS NEAR SIDON YESTERDAY REFLECT THE CONTINUING FRICTION BETWEEN IRAQ AND SYRIA. --

6. SHOULD EXTENSIVE GROUND CLASHES RESUME IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, IT SEEMS LIKELY THE PALESTINIAN-HELD VILLAGE OF TAYYIBAH, WHICH WAS CAPTURED IN EARLY APRIL, WOULD BE THE OBJECTIVE OF A CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE. THIS VILLAGE CONTROLS A STRATEGIC WATER SOURCE WHICH COULD ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE SHORTAGES IN CHRISTIAN AREAS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT INTERNAL ISRAELI POLITICAL PROBLEMS WOULD KEEP THE ISRAELIS FROM ENCOURAGING A CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE.

7. NEVERTHELESS, LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS--BOTH CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS--FEAR THAT, FOLLOWING THE LIKUD VICTORY,

THE ISRAELIS MIGHT LAUNCH A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST

PALESTINIAN TARGETS IN LEBANON IN ORDER TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH A GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. RIGHTIST LEADER DORY SHAMOUN ALSO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ISRAELIS MIGHT CREATE AN INCIDENT THAT WOULD JUSTIFY ENTERING LEBANON IN ORDER TO SAVE THE CHRISTIANS. HE SAID THIS WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR THE LATTER.

8. IN BEIRUT, LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS ANNOUNCED AN AGREEMENT YESTERDAY TO REVIVE A JOINT COMMITTEE TO REGULATE THE MOVEMENT OF PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON. THIS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN INACTIVE SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR. THE PALESTINIAN ATTITUDE SEEMS IN PART A RESPONSE TO CHRISTIAN STATEMENTS DECLARING THE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON ILLEGAL AND THE CAIRO ACCORDS "NULL AND VOID." BY ACCEPTING THE COMMITTEE, THE LEGALITY OF THE PALESTINIANS POSITION IN LEBANON IS CONFIRMED, BUT SO IS THE RIGHT OF THE LEBANESE  
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GOVERNMENT TO REGULATE PALESTINIAN ACTIVITY.

9. THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE GOALS OF THE CHRISTIANS WHEN THEY REJECTED THE CAIRO ACCORDS. DORY SHAMOUN, IN A CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHARGE, IMPLIED THAT THIS REJECTION HAD BEEN A TACTICAL MOVE: THE CHRISTIANS, BY THIS MOVE, HOPED TO OPEN THE WAY FOR LEBANESE MUSLIMS AND MODERATE PALESTINIANS, STILL OPPOSING THE CHRISTIANS, TO INSIST ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS. IN THIS MANNER, THE PALESTINIANS AND MUSLIMS WOULD NOT BE STIGMATIZED BY TOO CLOSE AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CHRISTIANS ON THIS ISSUE. (CONFIDENTIAL)

10. WEST BANK. OUR CONSUL GENERAL FOUND TULKARM MAYOR HANNONGENUINELY WORRIED OVER WHAT POLICY A LIKUD-LED GOVERNMENT WILL EXERCISE TOWARD THE WEST BANK. HANNOUN SAID THAT PEOPLE IN HIS DISTRICT WERE VERY CONCERNED THAT THE WEST BANK MIGHT BE ANNEXED AND THEIR PRESENT STATUS CHANGED TO THAT OF ISRAELI ARABS, THEREBY CUTTING OFF THEIR CONTACT WITH AN ACCESS TO THE ARAB WORLD. HEBRON'S MAYOR QAWASIMA ECHOED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, ADDING THAT, IF THE LIKUD TOOK A HARDER LINE TOWARD THE WEST BANK, PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS MIGHT GIVE WAY TO MORE VIOLENT RESISTANCE.

11. QAWASIMA ALSO SAID THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE PLEDGED \$15 MILLION IN AID TO HEBRON TO FUND ELEVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE MAYOR EXPECTS SOME DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING ISRAELI APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECTS, AND INTIMATED THAT THE FUNDS WOULD BE FILTERED THROUGH JORDAN SINCE JORDANIAN

FUNDS CAN MORE EASILY ENTER THE WEST BANK. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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